California Weather-Hydro Conditions during January 2007

As of February 1, Water Year 2007 (October 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007) statewide hydrologic conditions were as follows: precipitation, 55% of average to date; runoff, 55% of average to date; and reservoir storage, 110% for the date. On February 1, the statewide snow pack was about 40% of average for the date and about 25% of an April 1 average (the usual date of maximum accumulation). On February 1, the 8-Station Index had a seasonal total of 16.1", which is about 60% of the seasonal average to date and about 32% of average for an entire Water Year (50.0"). Precipitation statewide during this water year has been much below average, especially in Central and Southern California.

Summary of Water Conditions in California, February 1, 2007 (percent of average)

Hydrologic Region	Precip Oct 1-date	Snow Water Content	Reservoir Storage 31-Jan	Runoff Oct 1-date	Runoff Apr thru Jul Forecast	Runoff Water Year Forecast
North Coast	75	45	100	55	60	60
San Francisco Bay	65	--	100	10	--	--
Central Coast	45	--	130	10	--	--
South Coast	30	--	90	35	--	--
Sacramento River	55	40	105	55	60	55
San Joaquin River	55	45	120	35	55	50
Tulare Lake	40	35	110	50	55	50
North Lahontan	40	35	135	70	50	55
South Lahontan	35	30	105	100	60	65
Colorado River	10	--	--	--	--	--
Statewide	55	40	110	55	55	55
Last Year, Statewide						
February 1, 2006	130	110	120	185	105	115

Sacramento River unimpaired runoff observed through January 31 was 3.0 million acre-feet (MAF), which is about 55% of average. (On January 31, 2006, the observed Sacramento River unimpaired runoff was 10.7 MAF or about 185% of average.) The median forecasts of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Water Year Type indexes are "Dry" and "Critical," respectively.

Selected Cities Precipitation Accumulation as of 01/31/2007 (National Weather Service Water Year: July through June)					
	Jul 1 to Date 2006 - 2007 (in inches)	% Avg	Jul 1 to Date 2005 - 2006 (in inches)	% Avg	% Avg Jul 1 to Jun 30 2006 - 2007
Eureka	17.07	78	36.03	165	44
Redding	11.14	61	26.30	145	33
Sacramento	4.43	40	13.70	125	22
San Jose	4.27	53	9.19	115	28
Fresno	2.23	40	5.66	102	19
Bakersfield	1.12	37	2.35	77	17
Los Angeles	1.50	21	4.95	70	9
San Diego	2.18	36	1.30	24	20

Key Reservoir Storage (1,000 AF) as of 01/31/2007 midnight								
Reservoir	River	Storage	Avg Storage	% Average	Capacity	% Capacity	Flood Control Encroachment	Total Space Available
Trinity Lake	Trinity	1,801	1,763	102	2,448	74	---	647
Shasta Lake	Sacramento	3,374	3,133	108	4,552	74	-460	1,178
Lake Oroville	Feather	2,795	2,384	117	3,538	79	-368	743
New Bullards Bar Res	Yuba	676	581	116	966	70	-120	290
Folsom Lake	American	468	516	91	977	48	-109	509
New Melones Res	Stanislaus	1,977	1,392	142	2,420	82	7	443
Don Pedro Res	Tuolumne	1,606	1,385	116	2,030	79	-84	424
Lake McClure	Merced	636	489	130	1,025	62	-38	389
Millerton Lake	San Joaquin	237	340	70	520	46	-198	283
Pine Flat Res	Kings	492	478	103	1,000	49	-175	508
Isabella	Kern	223	169	132	568	39	53	345
San Luis Res	(Offstream)	1,943	1,626	120	2,039	95	---	96

Despite a dry start to the rainy season in California, especially in the central and southern portions of the State, it is still too early to refer to Water Year 2007 as a “drought.” Approximately 50% of the wet season remains and several large storms could quickly bring rainfall up to average or even above average. (This month will mark the 21st anniversary of the big flood of February 1986.) February 2007 is starting wet, with a series of storms that are bringing widespread precipitation to the State, along with significant snowfall at the higher elevations in the Sierra. The last few water years had above average precipitation and runoff, so ground water levels are near normal values. Statewide reservoir storage is about 110% of average for this time of year, many of the large water supply reservoirs in the foothills of the Central Valley are near flood control levels. It is worth noting, however, the Smith and Upper Klamath River Basins are the only watersheds with precipitation that is above 75% of normal for this water year, sharing in the well-above average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest. All the other river basins in California are well below average. The last significant weather system to move through Northern California was back on January 3 to 4. Until late January, several regions in Central and Southern California still had days with National Weather Service Red Flag Fire Warnings. January 2007 is the driest on record, or near driest, for the month at some climate stations.

The latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center (CPC) 90-Day long-range weather outlook for winter (February through April), issued January 18, suggest above average precipitation for Central and Southern California, and average rainfall for the northern part of the State. In addition, the CPC also expects a better than average chance of above average precipitation for the American Southwest, a reflection of weak/moderate El Nino conditions (warmer than average sea-surface temperatures) across the tropical Pacific. The CPC forecasts suggest above average temperatures for Northern California and average temperatures for Central and Southern California.

The latest CPC long-range weather for February, issued January 31, suggests above average rainfall for all of California, especially the northern and central portions of the State. Average to above average temperatures are forecast for all of California.